VI

The Commander of Our Camel-Saddles

721 [202] WHEN WE DREW rein, slaves were already lighting a huge signal-fire to call together the warriors of the tribe. A strong raiding-party of the Bishri (the three federated clans of the Anaza: the Fid'an, Saba, and Amarat) was reported to be advancing. It was said to number five hundred camel-riders, with some hundreds of war-mares. Perhaps the numbers were exaggerated.

That night Amir Fuaz made all his dispositions. Before the first grey of dawn Faris was at my bedside. "Awake, if thou wouldst ride with us," I heard him say, with a laugh. I jumped up and hastened to make ready for the march. Faris handed me a filled water-skin, a lump of pressed dates, several balls of hard Bedouin cheese, the size of a fist, and a stack of fresh-baked [492] bread-cakes. With the help of Mnahi, who was to be my rider-attendant, I stowed everything in the saddlebags of my *dhalul* (racing-camel), saddled Sadha, my white war-mare, and tied her by her halter to the dromedary's cinch.

Amir Fuaz had appointed Faris leader of our camel corps.

726 It was still dark when we started. The moon had set. The night was calm and the voices of the riders chanting as they rode made no echo, but moved over the desert

2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date) 1928 MD4 Rwala MD4

133 *Ḥejd*: the foot of a hill; a slope shutting in a plain
104 *Ḥemma* or *ḥamme*: lava
Ḥerr (pl., *ḥerara*): a river channel in clay soil, with steep banks
Ḥesw (pl., *ḥesjân*): a depression in a rocky river bed into which the rain water runs under sand and gravel
Ḥôr: a depression where the rain water forms numerous pools
Ḥšabe (pl., *ḥšabât*): a circular, natural rocky wall shutting in small level spaces called *krajje* (pl., *krajjât*)
Ḥubta: a depression in a flat rock, where rain water can accumulate

ʿIṭa: undulating plain covered in places with sand

Ḳâʿ (pl., *žiʿân*): a flat plain where the rain water forms no brooks
Ḳaʿara (pl., *ḳaʿar*): a large hollow shut in on three sides by steep slopes
Ḳara' or *aḳra'*: a ridge
Ḳâra (pl., *ḳûr*): an isolated table mountain; a mesa
Ḳaṣʿa (pl., *ḳṣâʿ*): a shallow natural depression in a rocky surface, where the rain water remains
Ḳaṣîme (pl., *ḳaṣâjem*): isolated sand dunes in a rocky plain
Ḳasr: a large but shallow basin which becomes a pond after unusually heavy rains
Ḳaṭar (pl., *ḳṭâr*): the last spur of a mountain range
Ḳaṭṭâr: a spring the water of which does not flow actively but merely trickles drop by drop
Ḳejš: shallow holes in a channel
● [202] *Ḳenna*: an isolated conical hill on top of which a beacon is lit whenever the enemy means to attack herds grazing far from the camp
Ḳîr or *ḥummar*: bitumen
Krajje (pl., *krajjât*): roughly circular basin surrounded by walls of crumbling stone

Lâl: a level plain glistening in the sun
Laṣṣâfa: a hillock with mica
Luṛuf: the eroded border of a sand desert

Maḥâl: a great distance between two wells
Maḥâri: the last spurs of a range of hillocks
Maḥfûr (pl., *maḥâfir*): artificial rain pool